

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) COVID-19 Response

Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA)

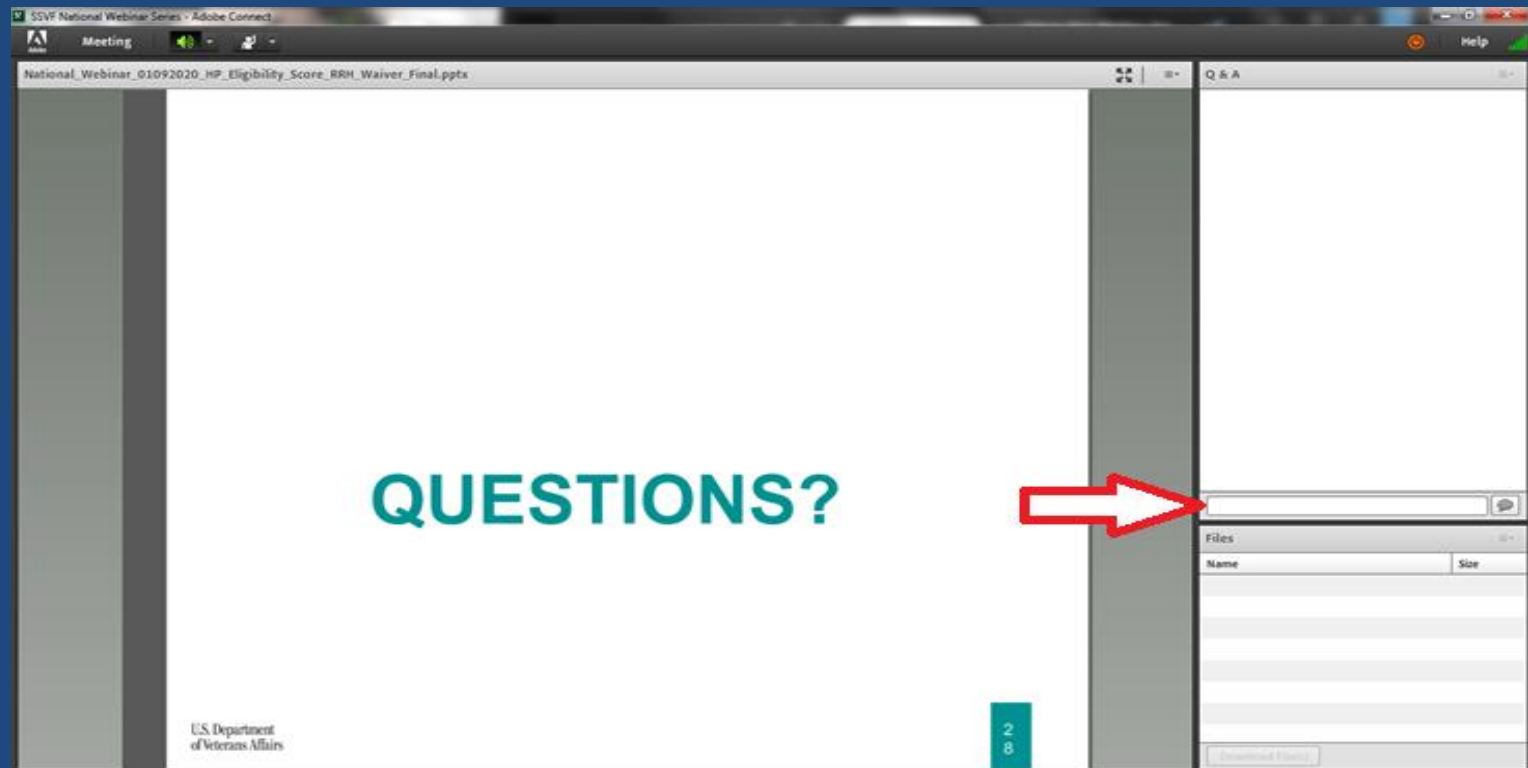
Adobe Audio Link

Webinar Format

- Webinar will last approximately 90 minutes
- Participants' phone connections are “muted” due to the high number of callers
 - Questions can be submitted during the webinar using the Q&A function
- Questions can also be submitted anytime to [SSVF@va.gov](mailto:ssvf@va.gov)



How to Submit Questions during the Webinar



Challenges

- Many working virtually, complicated for staff.
- Need to maintain existing services.
 - Still offering “regular” EHA.
- External services can be difficult to access.

Yet, COVID-19 puts certain vulnerable populations at higher risk. We can use EHA to reduce risks to health.

Target Population

- Goal is to reduce risk for vulnerable populations defined as 60+, compromised immune system, and/or lung disease.
- Referrals for EHA should be asymptomatic.
- Need to be eligible for SSVF – homeless Veteran households with AMI below 50%

Target Population

- Placement in EHA is generally coupled with full enrollment in SSVF that leads to housing.
- However, local decision may be to co-enroll a high risk Veteran.
 - Other Homeless Programs could have options available to them to reduce risks.

Screening and Referral

- SSVF “Basic Eligibility Form” to help screen.
- Enroll in SSVF; telework may mean some data entry is deferred.
- Identify available capacity and work with VA to create referral process for highest need.
- Veteran needs to be linked to VA or community health care provider.

Expanding Capacity

- If demand warrants, look to expand capacity.
- Budget flexibility if more funds need to be shifted to TFA.
- SSVF Program Office may provide additional funding using disaster relief process – contact your Regional Coordinator.
- 45 day limit the goal, but short-term leases may be possible.

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Telework and Communication

- The SSVF Program Office anticipates many Grantees will temporarily move to a telework or limited access office situation.
- This should meet the requirements imposed by Federal, State and local guidance. Understanding the there will be flexibility in delivery of services.
- Explore alternative methods to continue case management. Options to consider to continue to have contact with Veterans currently enrolled with SSVF (phones, laptop, telehealth systems)
 - Will your Grant need to acquire the technology needed to ensure business can continue? - *Research technology that will meet current needs at a reasonable cost.*
 - How will your agency continue to enroll homeless Veterans? (phone, laptop, webcam, video, web and audioconferencing, telehealth systems, etc.)
- What system will you have in place to ensure signatures are obtained for documentation when possible?
- Grantees will need to keep their SSVF Regional Coordinator updated with the plan to ensure services are being delivered and when changes are made.

FY 2020 COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Referrals and Placements

FY 2020 COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Referrals and Placements							
Grant Number							
Agency Name							
Referral Date	VAMC	Referring VA Program	Veteran Number		Date Placed		Comments
				Dispositon: Placed Y/N/PENDING		Estimated Cost	
3/20/2020	(402) Togus, ME	HUD VASH	Veteran #1	YES	3/20/2020	3,000.00	
			Veteran #2				



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Documentation

- It will be important for Grantees to do their best (make every effort) to get appropriate documentation for the case file.
- This may be in a non-traditional format (pictures of documents sent via text, showing document via face time apps, etc.) collected at a later date, or require a more frequent use of self-certification.
- FOFA and Office of Business Oversight are aware of our guidance and will refer to this and forthcoming guidance until the crisis is resolved.

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Are we allowed to pay for alternative transportation or other associated costs as a result of service delivery restrictions that are imposed

- SSVF Grantees will need to evaluate situations specific to the COVID - 19 environment and make appropriate decisions to ensure that you are taking the proper steps to meet community guidance to contain the potential of exposure.
- Should these decisions change the scope or method of current approved budgeted costs and require another avenue or mechanism to ensure the continuation of services, they would be deemed allowable.
- Documentation and rationale should be noted for the costs and grantees should consider the most reasonable and cost-effective ways to continue services.



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Budget Changes/Reconciliation

- SSVF Program Office is waiving 2nd quarter sweeps to ensure grantees have sufficient funds to deal with COVID 19 crisis.
- Grantees should be cognizant of fund usage and the impact both short term and long term.
- Decisions should be reasonable and necessary to meet the crisis.
- SSVF will determine next steps for Budget changes and reconciliation with program changes implemented during this period.
- When in doubt you have any question related to compliance ask your RC!

Q & A



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Additional Questions?

SSVF Program Office

ssvf@va.gov

Website:

www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf.asp

Thank You!



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U.S. Department
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